
JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume 13

Number 1



2002

What's Wrong with this Photo?



Absolutely Nothing!

See page 10

Cover photo by Brian Ribar



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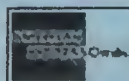


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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring issue of the BCCS Journal. I am writing this message and submitting it to Eileen Ribar just within her deadline. Work and other things got in the way but I now have the pleasure to be in Portland, Oregon preparing this text as I look upon tall fir trees nearby.

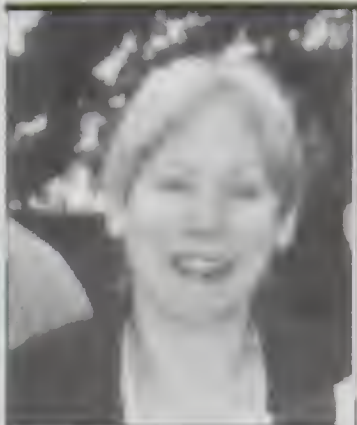
Paul Reuter sent me a few reflections on the content of the Journal in recent years. In part we have published a fair number of pages focused on Barber varieties. I firmly believe our membership enjoys this topic and many members are actively specializing in this collecting area. Certainly in the Barber series, there is no body of scholarly work such as one finds with the early coppers or bust coinage. With the research and publications of Dave Lawrence and his 'Complete Guide' for each Barber silver series, a body of basic information came to exist. However, there is currently much to build upon this foundation both in looking for new varieties and better definition of those presently recognized. With all this said, does the Barber series offer anything more?

I believe the 'what else is there with Barbers' is that of collecting a given series. In the past month or so, I've noticed two great reminders of what this effort means to a collector. The first is from BCCS member Randy Holder and his collection of Barber Halves. Randy has placed his coins acquired to date and his collecting comments on a neat website: <http://members.tripod.com/~RPHolder/>. His focus is on coins in Fine to Very Fine based on persuasive arguments concerning the features seen on the coin and cost.

Just after seeing this website reference, I picked up a copy of the May 2002 issue of *Coins* magazine and found another article on Barber Halves by Mike Thorne and a nice discussion of key dates (including the 1904-S and a quote from Dave Lawrence 'on these never are found with ease'). Our membership must have as many members looking for dates to complete a series as varieties. The grade one has chosen for their 'set' is interesting whether this may be G-VG, MS-65 or anything in-between. Consider sending a few comments or experiences in your series collecting.

With the long awaited Year 2002 dues notices, Paul Reuter received several e-mail addresses. The topic of having an e-mail group list in the Society was introduced at an ANA Convention meeting a few years ago. I will shortly receive this group of addresses from Paul and send these individuals an introductory message to get things started. I have no idea of what direction this effort will take and

continued on page 8



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Journal's 13th year in print is off to a great start. Many thanks to Mike Jurek, Kevin Flynn, Kevin Lonergan and Thomas Robertson who contributed articles, letters and material of interest to this issue. A special note of appreciation goes to David Harper of Krause Publications, Inc. for graciously allowing me to reprint a Barber related article from *Numismatic News* and to Tom LaMarre for likewise giving permission to reprint his article from *Canadian Coin News*.

I personally am delighted to be able to contribute a bit of Barber history thanks to David Lange of NGC (Numismatic Guarantee Corporation). Actually, I happened upon the information quite unexpectedly while 'surfing the web' researching the Type II Buffalo Nickel for my husband. I've titled the article "Charles Barber Slighted" but the information included is copied verbatim from a NGC article on the website.

Congratulations to last year's Literary Contest winners! The ballot results can be found on page 22. Our 2002 contest opens with this issue.

Again, I encourage all of you to please consider contributing material to the Journal. For example, I would be very interested, as would all your fellow BCCS members, to hear your responses/reactions to the articles featured in this issue. Length is unimportant. Something of interest for "Barber Bits" or a "Letter to the Editor" would be greatly appreciated.

Please note: Lindsay Ashburn's e-mail address has been changed to: barberdimes@hotmail.com

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS July 15th

Mint Mark Varieties Are a Dream

By **Thomas LaMarre**

(Reprinted from *Canadian Coin News*, April 3, 2001 with permission of author)

Few collectors were interested in mint mark varieties back in 1892, but today ownership of a rare 1892 Micro o half dollar is a numismatist's dream.

The variety was struck in the first year of the Liberty Head or Barber design, named for U.S. Mint Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber. Barber dimes and quarters also made their debut in 1892. There was even talk of a Barber silver dollar, but it failed to materialize.

Barber also designed the obverse of the World's Columbian Exposition half dollar, first struck in 1892. Stung by advance criticism of the commemorative's fanciful portrait of Christopher Columbus, Barber was more evasive about the forthcoming Liberty Head half dollar. When a newspaper reporter asked the Chief Engraver to describe the design, Barber facetiously told him it would look "very much like a half dollar."

Production of Liberty Head half dollars began the morning of January 2, 1892, answering everyone's questions, if not their expectations, concerning the artwork. One critic said the designs were probably the most that could be expected of "institutional" art. Another complained that Miss Liberty appeared to have the throat of a gladiator.

Still, the design proved to have a simple beauty of its own and easily withstood the rigors of circulation. According to Cornelius Vermeule, author of *Numismatic Art in America*, Barber succeeded in creating a "durable design of monumental validity."

Today Barber half dollars have many admirers.

More than one million half dollars from the Philadelphia Mint, 390,000 from the New Orleans Mint and slightly less than one million from the San Francisco Mint comprised production in the first year of the Liberty Head design.

The 1892-O was the first New Orleans half dollar since the Civil War. The Mint was closed from early 1861 until 1879. For years after it reopened, its output was restricted to silver dollars, \$10 gold eagles and a few thousand 1879 \$20 gold double eagles.

In 1892 a mistake flawed the resumption of New Orleans half dollar coinage when a small o mint mark punch intended for the quarter dollar was instead used for a limited number of half dollars. Collectors refer to the resulting variety as the "Micro o."

The October 1891 issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics* reported

that “in making the dies for the new coins, the government has adopted an entirely new process, and the aid of a machine will be called on to execute work that would be impossible for the most expert die -sinker to accomplish.”

However, mint marks were still punched into the dies by hand. According to the *Guide Book of United States Coins*, an attempt was made to standardize the size of mint marks in 1892. The 1892-O half dollar was an aberration. Even the “normal” variety displays a smaller than usual mint mark.

Apparently the erring use of the tiny mint mark was detected soon after the die went into service, and it was quickly retired. Judging from the rarity of the Micro o variety, very few of the coins entered circulation.

Collectors, or at least some of them, were aware of the rare Micro o almost from the start, although the name did not come into widespread use until some time later.

“After a long interval the half dollar was struck in 1892 with a new bust and Heraldic Eagle dies,” Augustus G. Heaton wrote in his book *Mint Marks*, published when the Micro o variety was scarcely a year old. “The date is small, and a small o is directly under the middle of the eagle’s tail and over the D. There is one rare variety of this piece with an exceedingly small o, barely larger than a period.”

But most collectors of the day ignored mint mark varieties. When curiosity did awaken, around 1909, the Barber coins were overlooked.

Howard R. Newcomb, a prominent collector and numismatic author, displayed an 1892 Micro o half dollar at the 1914 American Numismatic Society Exhibition, according to the Bowers and Merena Galleries catalogue of the Robert W. Schwan Collection. Years later, Newcomb was sometimes credited with “discovering” the 1892 Micro o half dollar. Heaton’s earlier role was overlooked.

Newcomb was, in fact, responsible for the first published reference to a similar variety, the 1895 Micro o dime. He described it in the *Numismatic Review* in 1944.

“It is to be presumed from the rarity with which specimens turn up that only one die was made with the peculiarly small ‘O’ and the coin decidedly worthy of more attention from collectors and students that it seems hitherto to have received,” Newcomb wrote.

“Microscopic is of course used rather in a vivid than strict sense, for one requisite of a major variety is that it should be something that can be seen with the naked eye. But the ‘O’ is so tiny that the term ‘microscopic mint mark variety of the 1905-O dime’ is one that may be acceptable in listing the specimen.”

Today the Micro o dime is not as rare or valuable as the half dollar.

Fewer than three dozen 1892 Micro o half dollars are known in all grades, including just five or six Mint State examples.

In April 1997 the Louis Eliasberg specimen, graded Mint State-67, realized nearly \$60,000.

President's Message

continued from page 4

I am unsure of whether members wish their address provided to others at large. If you want to be part of this currently undefined and uncharted 'action,' please send me your e-mail address.

I plan to attend the Mid-America show in Chicago in June (don't have the date with me) and will be in New York City for ANA in August. Please enjoy our great hobby and be a friend to someone in need.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan



BARBER BITS

*BCCS member **Kevin Lonergan** responds to Tom Mulvaney's article "Thoughts on the '1909-O Over Inverted D' Dime" which appeared in the Vol. 12, No. 4 Journal with the following letter to the editor:*

Dear Editor:

I wholeheartedly agree with Tom Mulvaney that the 1909 O is over an inverted (backward) D. Having owned an AG and having examined this coin numerous times, I just cannot reach any other conclusion. I always wondered how the backward D got there - it just did not make a lot of sense - but it sure looks like a backward D!

As a collector binding the start of a Barber Half collection (accumulation?), I found Tyler Child's article quite informative. The article could not have appeared at a better time for me!

I enjoyed the other articles as well - and, as Russell Easterbrooks points out, we all should enjoy our collecting experience.

Thanks,
Kevin Lonergan
BCCS#114

BARBER BITS *continued*

"I have acquired several more varieties, mostly from the Windsor estate auction held in Cedar Falls, IA on March 19, 2002. None of these are listed in Wexler or Lawrence, except as noted. The Windsor estate had a complete set of Barbers (sans varieties), but all of them which were not uncirculated or proof had been harshly cleaned. None the less, they were all high grade specimens except for the 01-S quarter which was a VG 10. I found no varieties of quarters or halves but picked up the following dimes:

- 1893-S RPM, S/S west VF35
- 1901-S RPM, S/S north XF40 -- the S is half a letter high, into the bow, and rotated CCW about 35 to 40 degrees.
- 1903 RPD XF45
- 1906-S RPD, 6/6 AU50
- 1907 RPD, 7/7 AU50
- 1907-S RPD, 7/7 south
- 1907-S RPD, 9/9 XF45
- 1908 RPD, 8/8 XF45
- 1908-D RPD, 08/08 XF45
- 1908-S RPD, 08/08 XF45
- 1909-O RPM, O/horiz. D XF45 (listed only because of the high grade; I also have a F15)
- 1911-D Recut Legend (ES in STATES); also minor RPM
- 1912-S RPM, S/S west XF 45

I have not yet taken the time to compare these varieties to any which may have been published in the BCCS Journal subsequent to the Wexler and Lawrence books so they may not be 'new' varieties to BCCS members.

By way of further information, the William R. Windsor auction was conducted by Jackson's auction house of Cedar Falls, IA over a two day period; the ancient and foreign coins sold on March 20th and I did not attend that session. Mr. Windsor was the son of James Windsor, founder of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Des Moines, IA."

Thomas D. Robertson



On the Trail of a Fake

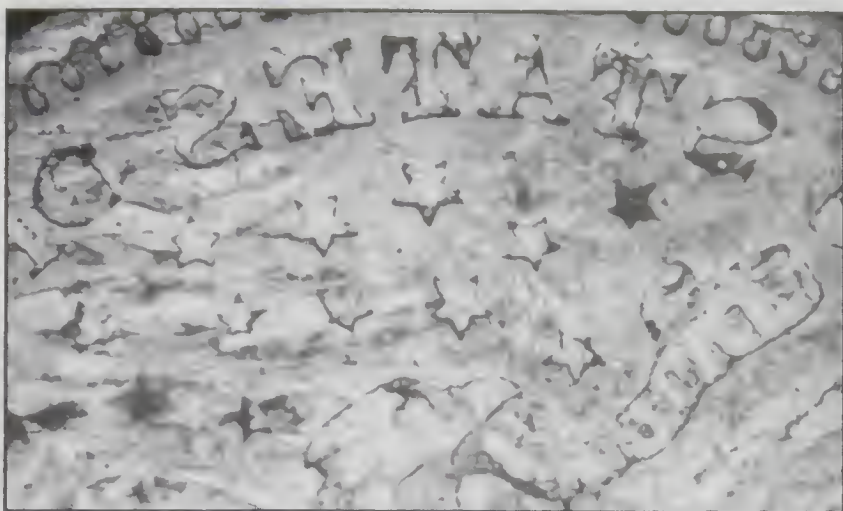
By **Mike Jurek**

Recently, I came across two interesting items in an accumulation of several hundred English pennies and half-pennies. They were two counterfeit Barber coins! The first was a rather ordinary cast counterfeit half-dollar dated 1907. One would not have to pass the ANA course on counterfeit detection to pick this one out as a suspect item. I'd seen a number of this variety of coin 'substitutes,' primarily with Bust halves and Morgan dollars, so I was not too easily awed by it. I did wonder what it was doing in a bag of English coins. Perhaps it was more easily passed if folks weren't used to seeing this particular coin, but I would have thought that with most large coins being silver in that era, it would have been tested for silver content. I'm sure that a number of the dings on this item would have resulted from dropping it to hear the dull thud, followed by a "not good" and "do you have any other money?" On the other hand, maybe the owner just couldn't pass it.

The second item was the one that captured my attention. It was a counterfeit Barber quarter, but not like one that I had ever encountered. Let me describe some of its peculiar characteristics while you examine the photos. This has been graciously photographed for us by Brian Ribar and the photos have not been reversed in error. All the details on the obverse and reverse are mirror images of their proper designs.



The reverse is also rotated clockwise from normal by about 110°. It is dated 1901 and I would like to believe that the blob depression on the reverse might pass for an "S" mintmark. It weighs 5.07 grams—a bit light compared to the 6.25 standard weight for a silver quarter. A specific gravity test should be run to deter-



All details on the obverse and reverse are mirror images of their proper designs.

mine the type of alloy it is.

The eagle's wing tips extend beyond the "USA" indicating that it was from a post-1900 coin. The coin has an unusual feel in that the center seems to bulge, that is to say, the edges are thinner than the center of the coin. The neck on the obverse bust is virtually non-existent.

By this time, I am sure that several readers wonder how I could not have realized earlier what this coin was. My best guess is that two genuine coins were used with a blank planchet to make a sandwich structure. A real 1901 was used with a "correct" reverse for the year. This sandwich was then subjected to pressure (a vise?) to yield this fake 1901-S. This would explain why the edges of the fake are thinner than the center of the coin. The rims would have the highest elevation on the real coin's surface and hence it would exert the most pressure on the planchet's rims. I suppose this new coin could be passed off to unsuspecting people around the turn of the century even with reversed design elements to make a small profit.

The fact that this appears to be the most highly prized date/mintmark in the series leads me to a more devious scenario. If this process were repeated, two fake inverse coins could be used to impress another blank planchet to obtain a more realistic 1901-S. With this goal in mind, I am sure the counterfeiter might have used a silver planchet—perhaps even a quarter with the date removed. There would undoubtedly be better attention paid to the proper alignment of the obverse and reverse. The final coin would most likely be artificially "aged" by adding dirt and carrying it around in a pocket with other silver coins for some time.

So, does this coin merely represent one quick attempt to fake a quarter, or does this coin have a twin? If two exist, I would wager that several pressed counterfeit 1901-S quarters might also be out there. If anyone has knowledge of another "master die" or a pressed counterfeit, perhaps we can build on this story.

Finally, in my several years with the BCCS, I have not seen any articles on counterfeit Barbers. Are there any others out there? Please feel free to contact me at: mike@mikesmailbag.com

Illustrating Varieties

By **Steve Hustad**

Assuming that you're not too sick of me just yet and that your thirst for Barber quarter variety information supercedes your tolerance for babbling, I'll continue on in this issue with a few of the 1893 varieties.

3rd installment: Several 1893 New Orleans & San Francisco Quarters

1893 O/O, RPM - East (1 obverse plate & 1 reverse plate; plate coin is EF-45)

This quarter variety is possibly the same one listed as "Lawrence 101" in Dave's The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, but it's not illustrated there. Dave's description is similar so I would bet that it's from the same dies. The plate coin shows the original "O" punched in to the East and now visible along the left inside vertical of the final "O." The original punching is missing its lower 25% (polished out?). The plate coin is probably from a later die state given the quantity and locations of the numerous die cracks present. (That's why I've plated both sides.) The obverse plate indicates cracks from star 1 to the rear edge of the bust and from just past star 8, through star 10, picking up again from star 12, 13 and then onto the tip of the forward bust.

The reverse plate, besides showing the RPM, also illustrates further die cracks between the "T" & "E" and along the "QUA" of QUARTER and from the "Q" to the denticles. "S" in STATES is connected to the ribbon and from a denticle almost to the "C" in AMERICA.

1893 S/S, RPM - far to the East (1 reverse plate)

The plate coin is from Wexler & Miller's book and appears to be in a higher circulated grade. The plate was also developed from photos I have - obverse & reverse - of a different coin from this die set provided to me by CONECA a long time ago. That coin appears to be in lower grade, perhaps F to VF or so. See also; BCCS Journal Volume 5, Number 3).

Lawrence designation 101.

It's odd that for such a dramatic variety, there isn't more to say about it. Lawrence reports that he hasn't seen one and I haven't 'in the flesh' either. Has anyone else out there? If not, this may be quite scarce.

The original "S" was punched in far to the east of the final "S" and was mostly polished out, but leaving a very distinctive remainder (see enlargement). Square "S" centered above the R & D.

No die defects noted in any of the photos on reverse, or obverse.

1/1893/93 S, RPD - South, South & North respectively. (1 obverse plate)

The plate coin was borrowed a long time ago and I unfortunately no longer remember the grade. (The mind's a terrible thing to waste, eh? Oops, too late!)

Lawrence designation 103.

This is one of my favorite varieties as I've always had a soft spot for multiple RPDs. The 1's doubling is visible immediately south of the final 1's foot and the 9's first punching is just to the south of the 9's upper loop.

The 3 is the most interesting with the under-punch being visible to the north (this time atop the 3 and again a little 'spike' to the east, but still a part of the north punched original 3).

Note that this variety is not illustrated in Lawrence and that the repunching of the 9 is not mentioned there either. Perhaps that coin was a later die state and the 9's repunching was not as readily apparent? - but it is undoubtedly from the same die.

Not much else that stands out here other than some minor die cracking was noted from the tip of Liberty's bust to star 13. No die defects noted on the reverse of this specimen.

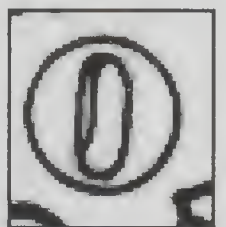
On the following pages are scans of the three plates. That wraps up another installment. Next time we'll move onto some 1894 & 1895 Barber quarter varieties. Until then - happy cherrypicking!



OBVERSE: Normal.

DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: There are three areas with thin diagnostic die cracks visible. One is between the first star and the rear/bottom of the bust. The next is between stars eight, nine and ten (though not touching eight on the plate example coin). The last is from star twelve through the tip of Liberty's bust.

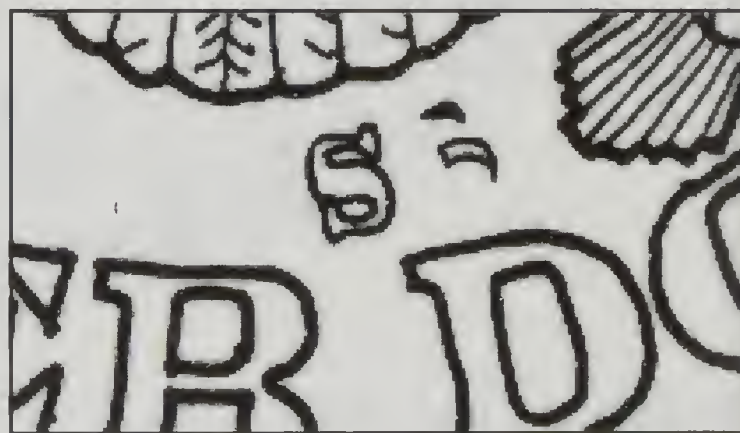


REVERSE: The original mintmark was punched in the East of the final 'O.' Given the downturn at the lower part of this punching however might indicate that this is actually an RPM-NW if that 'curve to the left' is actually the lower right of the inside loop of the 'O.' This remains to be proven. (Lawrence 101)

DIE DEFECTS:

Rev.: Thin diagnostic die cracks are visible at the denticles, upward through 'QUARTE' of QUARTER DOLLAR; between the bottom of the first 'S' in STATES to the left end of the ribbon in the eagle's beak; and from the denticles between (but not touching on the plate example) 'CA' of AMERICA.

(Lawrence 101)



OBVERSE: Normal.

REVERSE: The original mintmark was punched in far to the right (east) of the final mintmark, the final being situated directly between the 'R' and the 'D.' The first mintmark was mostly polished away, but some bold remnants remain (as shown) which should be easily seen down to VG grade and possibly below! A very exciting variety!

DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: None seen

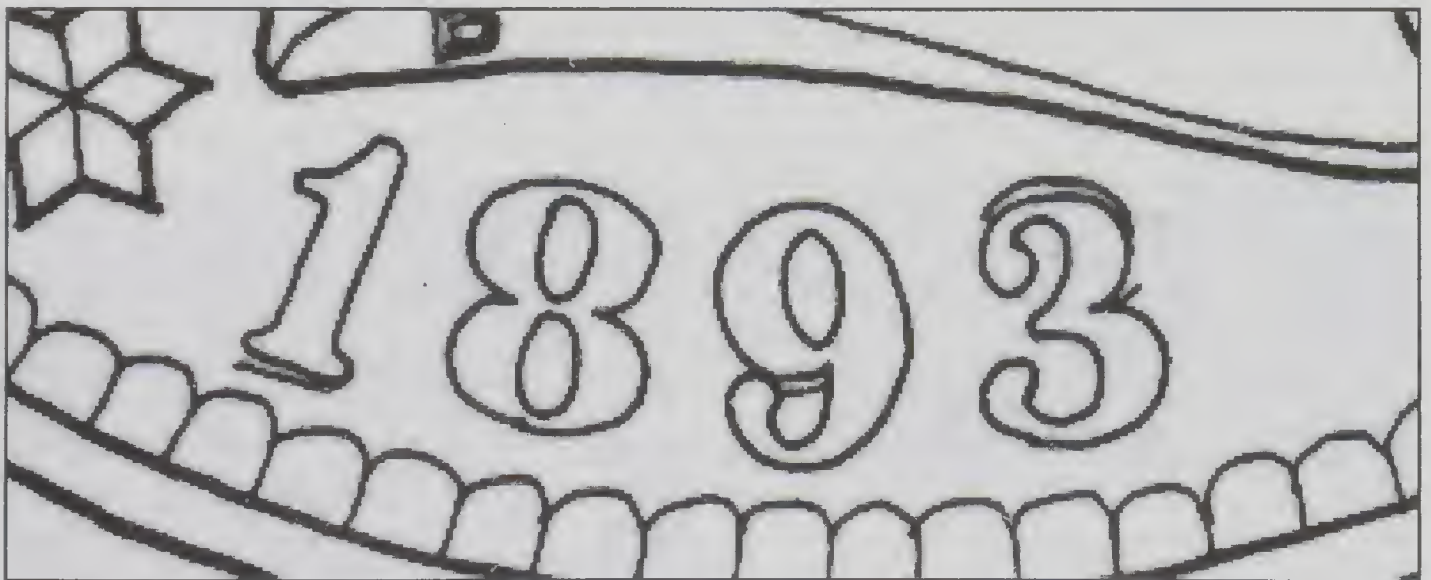
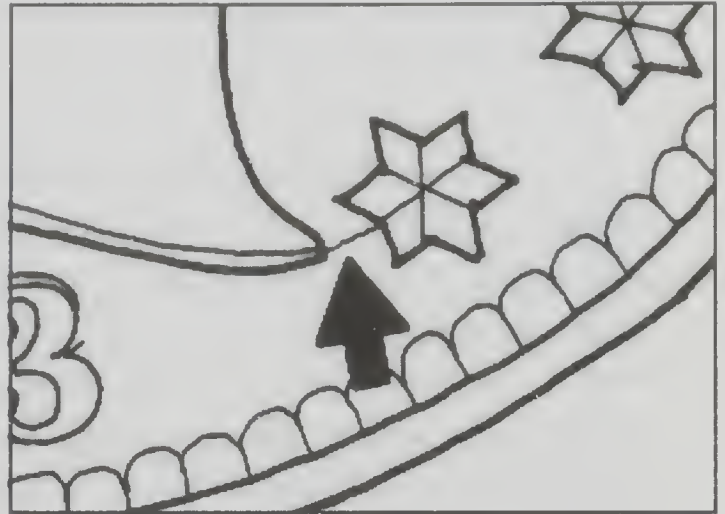
Rev.: None seen

1/1893/93-S

RPD - south, south & north

QUARTER

(Lawrence 103)



OBVERSE: The original 1 shows clearly at the foot of the final 1; the original 9 faintly shows below the upper loop of the final 9; and the original 3 shows most boldly of all atop the final 3 and possibly at the middle/right as well.

REVERSE: Normal.

DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: One tiny die crack is visible coming off the tip of Liberty's bust extending to the middle of the 13th star. No others seen on obverse.

Rev.: None seen

Charles Barber Slighted

Editor's note: This historical information is provided compliments of NGC (Numismatic Guarantee Corporation). NGC is the "grading service of choice" of the ANA. NGC is one of the two largest independent grading services. NGC has been grading coins since 1987, and has graded in excess of two and one half million coins.

“It was a difficult time for Charles Barber, Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint. Although Teddy Roosevelt was no longer in office, his desire to have more classical designs on our coins, as expressed to Augustus Saint-Gaudens over dinner in 1905, was very much alive. Barber's uninspired Liberty Head nickel had been in production since 1883. Under the Coinage Act of 1890, it was time for a change, and Secretary of the Treasury Franklin MacVeagh, originally a Roosevelt appointee, wasn't about to pass up the opportunity. Reminded by his son in May, 1911, that a new nickel would be ‘A permanent souvenir of the most attractive sort,’ MacVeagh, pointedly bypassing the competent but mediocre Barber, started the process for a new design.

The Buffalo nickel became a reality less than two years later... James Earle Fraser, a former assistant to Saint-Gaudens and a prolific artist best known for his monumental "End of the Trail" Indian sculpture, created a truly unique design for the new coin... Fraser's design was medallic and beautiful, and for that reason was favored by Secretary MacVeagh. Its allure seemed to completely elude Barber, who complained that the design elements were too large and didn't allow for the proper placement of inscriptions. Barber didn't get very far with this, as the design remained unchanged over his objections...

Over 1.2 billion Buffalo Nickels were minted from 1913 through 1938 at three mints... The mintmark can be found on the reverse under the denomination, while the designer's initial "F" is below the date. There were two varieties made. Type 1 nickels, minted only during the first few months of 1913, had the denomination FIVE CENTS on a raised mound. As early as April, rapid wear in this area became evident on the coins in circulation, so Barber finally got his chance to modify Fraser's design. He cut away the mound and placed the bison on a straight line, then put the denomination in the recessed area under the line. This solved the reverse wear problem, but then he kept going. He smoothed out much of the detail and granularity in both the Indian's portrait and the bison's hide. The resulting Type 2, however, lacked much of the artistic impact of the original. Barber again made minor modifications in 1916, and some specialists consider this a third type, but most type collectors only consider the Type 1 and 2 coins as actual varieties. It is strange that during all his modifications, Barber never addressed the problem of the date wearing down too rapidly.”

New Dramatic 1892 Barber Half Dollar Doubled Die Obverse Discovered

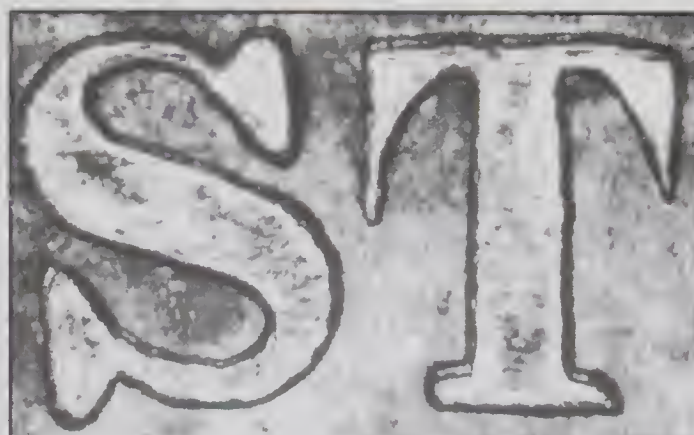
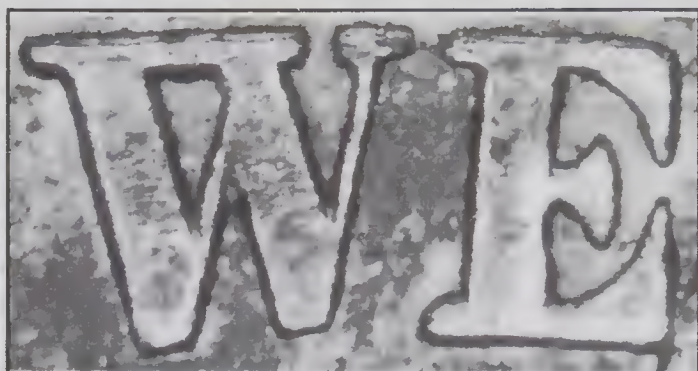
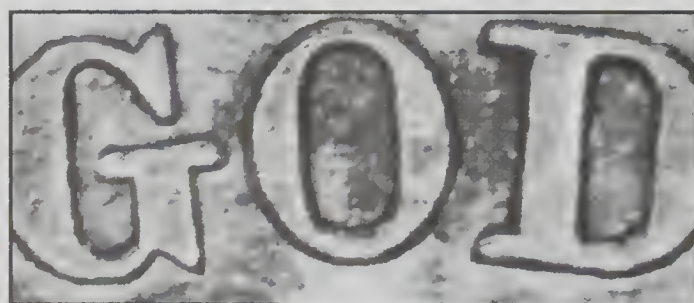
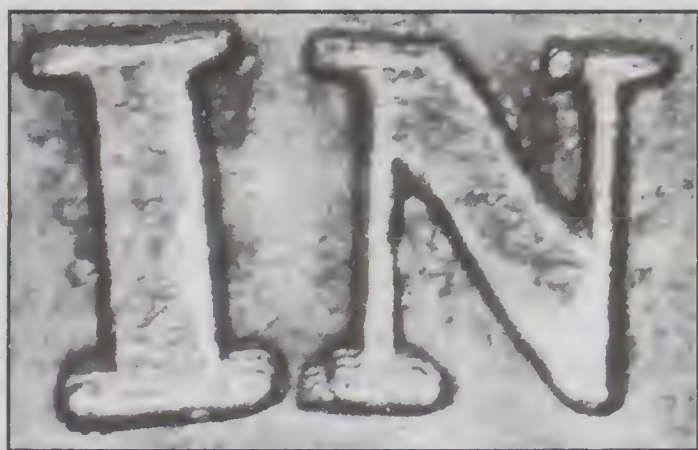
By **Kevin Flynn**

The Barber Dime, Quarter and Half Dollar book which I am currently working on will contain many die varieties that have not been listed or shown before. Currently there are 40 doubled dies listed in the book. One of these is an 1892 Barber Half Dollar with clear doubling on the obverse recently sent in by Tony Patchin.

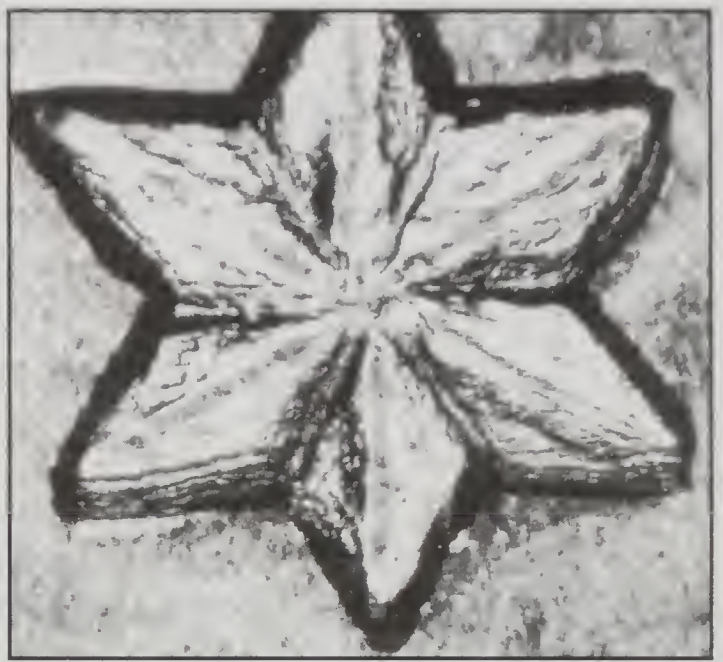
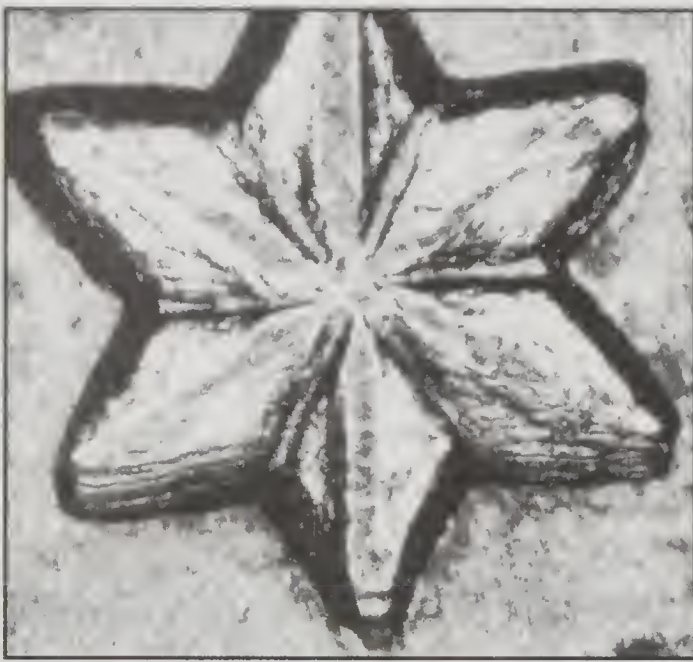
This is the first 1892 Barber Half Dollar doubled die obverse published. The doubling is clearly a Class II, distorted hub doubling. Tripling can be seen on all of the letters of the IN GOD WE TRUST. What amazed me though were the 8 steps which could be seen on some of the stars, especially the stars on the left side.

The variety has been listed as 1892 Barber Half Dollar DDO-001.

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. I believe that with die varieties this is especially true, so enjoy the photos below and on the following page.



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What amazed me were the 8 steps which could be seen on some of the stars, especially the stars on the left side.

Message from the Secretary/Treasurer

With the time for dues renewal, I get a shot at changing and correcting names, spelling and addresses. If there is any problem with your address label, please contact me. If you move during the year, please drop me a change of address card. The Journal is supposed to be forwarded, but who knows these days.

Thanks to all who sent in their ballots for the literary contest. The results are elsewhere in the Journal. I'm happy to say that all nominees got some votes, even my poor article.

Thanks also to those who included messages with their dues renewal. It's always nice to from members and know that they are interested in the Society.

All e-mail addresses have been forwarded to Phil for possible use. If you have any ideas on this, please contact Phil. Also, advise Phil of e-mail address changes when they occur as I will not be keeping up with the list. I don't have space for them in my mail list program.

And, finally, there is always a message in the Journal concerning back issues. It says they are \$3.99 each and that is correct. However, when someone orders several or a big batch, the mailing cost drops on a per copy basis so we lower the price considerably. Contact me if there is a question about this. There are now 48 issues of the Journal in existence and all but a few are readily available.

Barber Dimes Snubbed by Most Collectors

By **Paul M. Green**

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Barber dimes are a delight for people wanting 20th century coins with low mintages at good prices. As the old adage suggests, “there is no Santa Claus in the rare coin market,” so there must be a good reason for Barber dimes to be priced at modest levels.

The reason is that many people never get around to collecting Barber dimes, for which the few who do give thanks, because it has kept prices reasonable.

If you look at the list of Barber dimes and their mintages, you see date after date with mintages of less than 1 million pieces and G-4 prices less than \$50. The Barber dime was introduced in 1892 and lasted until 1916, but with most mintages from the 1900s, it seems natural to consider it a 20th-century coin.

Also, the Barber dime did not simply go away when the first Mercury dime made its appearance in 1916 - it kept circulating. We know there were Barber dimes in circulation in the 1940s and even into the 1950s. We also know that when the price of silver soared to nearly \$50 an ounce, a surprising number of well-worn, but sometimes good-condition Barber dimes were turned in for their silver value and consequently destroyed. That makes the modest mintages of Barber dimes more misleading.

Ironically, despite the low mintages, if you were to start a Barber dime collection today, you would probably be surprised to find that in G-4, only the 1894-S and 1895-O top \$100 in price.

The fact that Barber dimes circulated heavily is seen in the prices. Many Barber dimes have large jumps in price from G-4 to VG-8, and even larger jumps to F-12. It might not be a lot of dollars, but the percentages are unusual. For example, the 1898 goes from \$1.95 in VG-8 to \$6.50 in F-12, while the 1906-O goes from \$6 to \$41 in the same two grades. The 1909-S goes from \$5 in G-4 to \$13 in VG-8, while an 1894 goes from \$10 to \$24 in those two grades.

When it comes to price jumps in lower-circulated grades, the 1909-D Bar-

ber dime ranks near the top of dates that show big increases, suggesting heavy wear over the years. It may not be a key date, but it may also be a real condition rarity in lower-circulated grades.

The 1909-D had a mintage of 954,000, which was greeted with a large yawn by the nation's collectors. After all, 1909 saw exciting coins like the new Lincoln cent, and that year alone saw San Francisco produce three truly exciting Lincoln and Indian cents.

Virtually no one saved the 1909-D, despite its sub-million mintage. The 1909-D in MS-65 is about \$2,300, a price that has not moved since 1998. The MS-60 price of \$390 is also stable, and higher than many Barber dime dates, especially those in the 20th century.

The years of circulation show far more in the lower grades. In G-4, a 1909-D currently lists for \$3.75, down from \$3.90, and just plain cheap for a silver 20th-century coin with a mintage of fewer than 1 million. In VG-8, however, the 1909-D jumps to \$11, a significant increase for a one grade-better coin, and up \$1.25 from October 1998.

The increases continue in F-12. Today the 1909-D, at \$58, is more than five times its VG-8 price, and that is not normally the case when going from VG-8 to F-12 in 20th century coins. We might think of MS-63 prices compared to MS-65 and expect a jump of perhaps three times or more, but we do not expect that when you move from VG-8 to F-12, a strong suggestion that the low mintage 1909-D Barber dime is also an extremely tough coin in F-12 and up.

BCCS Literary Contest Results

By the April 15th closing date, most of our members had submitted their ballots for the literary contest. Every entry got more than a few votes and it was a close contest. Congratulations to the winners! The results are:

\$50 First Place - "The Grading Nuances of Circulated Barber Halves" by Tyler Child

\$25 Second Place - "Research on the 1893/2 Barber Dime" by Kevin Flynn

Free 1 year BCCS membership Third Place - "More Thoughts on the '1909-O over Inverted D' Dime" by Tom Mulvaney

Every article submitted was greatly appreciated.

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